We Claim:

1.   A method for selecting a workflow comprising the steps of:

        constructing a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using components having defined inputs and outputs;

        calculating a predetermined exposure measure for each of the possible workflows in the set of possible workflows; and

        selecting the constructed workflow for which the predetermined exposure measure is calculated to be a minimum.

2.   The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a library of components from which possible workflows can be constructed.

3.   The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of defining an exposure measure to be representative of the amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes.

4.   The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of defining an exposure measure to be representative of the duration for which a constructed workflow exposes information.

5.   The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of defining an exposure measure to be representative of the amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes, and the duration for which information is exposed.

6.   A computer system for selecting a workflow comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

constructing a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using components having defined inputs and outputs;

calculating a predetermined exposure measure for each of the possible workflows in the set of possible workflows; and

selecting the constructed workflow for which the predetermined exposure measure is calculated to be a minimum.

7.   A computer program product for selecting a workflow comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

constructing a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using components having defined inputs and outputs;

calculating a predetermined exposure measure for each of the possible workflows in the set of possible workflows; and

selecting the constructed workflow for which the predetermined exposure measure is calculated to be a minimum.